

## Franciscans Plan Bible in Chinese

Hong Kong — (NC) — The Franciscan Biblical Institute of China plans to finish the first complete Chinese translation of the Bible in 1954 in time for the centenary celebrations of the definition of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, patroness of China.

Within 13 months of establishment of the institute at Peiping in August, 1945, it had issued its first volume — the Psalter. The Sapiaental Books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Canticle of Canticles, Wisdom and Ecclesiasticus) and the Book of Job were published in October, 1947, and in 1948 the Pentateuch translation was issued.

The Rev. Gabriel M. Allegra, O.F.M., who is still in his early forties, conceived the project and is carrying on as director of the institute despite illness and repeated thefts of books. Sicilian-born, he came to Hengyang, Hunan, in 1931. After becoming rector of the mission seminary, he decided to do something about the great gap left in Chinese Catholic life by the absence of a Catholic translation of the Bible.

Before sickness sent him back to Europe in 1939, he had collected books, studied Chinese and begun his own translation. While convalescing in Europe he devoted his time to Scripture studies, and in 1941 received the diploma of Lector Generalis in Holy Scripture.

HE RETURNED to China, but could get no closer than Peiping to his precious library and manuscript in Hengyang. His library in Peiping at that time

consisted of a Hebrew Bible and a dictionary.

The Japanese entered the Hengyang Seminary and burned most of the books in the library for fuel, but fortunately the nuns, still there, were able to save Father Allegra's manuscript translations of the Scriptures. Losing libraries almost became a habit with Father Allegra, for many valuable books, acquired on his way to China, also were stolen. However, he built again, this time in the Franciscan House of Studies, Peiping, and there accumulated the library now reposing on the shelves of the institute at Hong Kong.

In Peiping Father Allegra decided that an acceptable version of the Scriptures could hardly be the work of one man, and a non-Chinese at that. So he proposed to his superiors the foundation of a biblical school.

## Boy Pens Penny Postcard to God

Providence, R. I. — (NC) — The Evening Bulletin, daily secular paper, received a postcard. Scrawled in childish handwriting, it contained the following message: "Dear Sir: I prayed to God for to make my mother get better and I want to thank God so when He reads the paper He can see it. My God thank you. From a little boy who love God." In the return address portion of the card was written: "From Ernest C."

## St. Joan of Arc Relives in Technicolor

By PAUL DONCOEUR, S. J.

The greatest event of the year, and, perhaps, of all time in the world of motion pictures, will be the release shortly on the screens of the world of the Walter Wanger film Joan of Arc.

In recent years, this great historical subject has engaged the attention of the motion-picture world and, especially, the French industry. Technical progress in motion pictures, however, demands a new presentation.

That is one of the reasons why Miss Ingrid Bergman for years has dreamed of portraying on the screen the character of Joan, one of the most sublime in all history.

THIS LITTLE Lorraine peasant girl took part, from her thirteenth to her seventeenth year, in the horrors of a war which devastated France with fire, murder, plundering, and ruin. The task facing her was to ride through miles to arouse a king harassed by the enemy, a king without crown, without an army, without hope.

As the picture unfolds we see her become the victorious warrior who rouses peasants and noblemen to her cause. She breaks the terrible vise in which the despicable Duke of Bedford holds France at his mercy, and finally triumphs by having the young king crowned in the great cathedral of Rheims.

We find two nations involved in the miraculous power of this young virgin: the English people, victorious yesterday fleeing before her, terrified; and the French people, yesterday in despair, now reconquering their liberty.

THIS MAKES a grand story, indeed, well worthy of the interest of our modern masters of the screen. Technicolor brings out the artistry of the lighting; landscapes, battles, costumes, liturgical make an incomparable harmonious whole. The technicians grouped around Victor Fleming, the architect, painter, costume designer, and electrician find here a golden opportunity.

But the drama of Joan goes beyond these wonders. The Catholic Church did not hesitate to recognize in the youthful, victorious warrior, who five hundred years ago brought a horrible war to an end, one of the most glorious saints of history.

God had mysterious plans for her. Not only did she enjoy four years of heavenly revelations from saints and angels who pointed out to her the task and supported her in battle. Her virginal purity made such an impression on the soldiers that they were fascinated by her holiness and caused her to be proclaimed a living "Daughter of God."

AND, INDEED, she was to reach the highest peaks of sacrifice and fall into the hands of her mortal enemies and suffer for twelve months an agony which can be compared to that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We see a singularly pure creature tortured by judges in the pay of her enemies without any human help, making a brave fight for her life. But hate was to win out, and at nine years of age, on May 30, 1431, Joan was burned to death while crying out to Heaven to repeat the Holy Name "Jesus Jesus."

This character is unique in history. No other more pure, more luminous, more pathetic, or more saintly can be found. The profane world saw in her an incomparable heroine and



Capable Ingrid Bergman as "Joan of Arc," one of the most sublime characters in all history — a role Miss Bergman has dreamed for years of portraying.

It was not merely solicitude for historical accuracy which induced them to invite me, a historian of Joan, to assist the director; they desired the collaboration of a Catholic priest in order not to offend in any way, in a difficult subject, the Catholic Church.

This consideration of the producer is most praiseworthy. The problem was embarrassing. A Catholic Bishop, assisted by an inquisitor, condemned Joan, and there was an assistant judge and a council of about sixty priests. It was in the name of Theology, the Holy Scriptures, and Canon Law that these unfaithful judges

decried before the mystery of her career.

The Church and all Catholics recognize in her one of the most beautiful incarnations of sanctity. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV, amidst the splendors of the Basilica of the Vatican, granted her the supreme honors of canonization.

THIS HEROINE won the admiration of Miss Ingrid Bergman at an early age. As a little girl, Miss Bergman was enthralled when she heard the story of Joan of Arc. She dreamed of wonderful adventures in the service of her people.

"But," she told me, "I ended by realizing that this heroic destiny was not for me. What could I do for my people? If in the theater, I could bring back to life in my person that marvelous Joan, it seemed to me that I could also accomplish something to stimulate faith and love in my people."

ASSISTED BY Mrs. Ruth Roberts she devoted six months to a close study of the history of Joan. Having gotten together an imposing library on the subject, Miss Bergman lived for little else, haunted by her heroine. It was from that on an admirable concentration of spirit and science conspired to produce a film worthy of Joan.

I can personally testify to the fact that the group of historical artists concentrated for more than six months on a conscientious study of events, personalities, places and costumes.

Mr. Wanger was determined to give to this film a real documentary value and to avoid all stretches of imagination. It was always referring to the learned publications of Quicherot that Victor Fleming got the real facts. The Joan of Arc will present to the world a page of history proper, dignified and audience of America and Europe can have confidence in the authenticity of the story presented to them.

## A Look at Labor T-H Act Injunction

By A. C. Tooby

This is the story of a law which deals with injunctions. An injunction is an order of a court which requires someone to do something or stop doing something. The person who does not obey the injunction may be fined or jailed.

Injunctions have been used a great deal in the past against labor unions. When an employer could not break a strike, destroy a labor union or interfere with a picket line, by his own devices, he generally went to court.

The federal courts used to do for the employer what he could not do for himself. By means of the injunction they broke strikes. Employers found that injunctions were perfect strike-breaking weapons.

THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT restored to the Federal Courts the power to grant injunctions in labor disputes. The National Labor Relations Board now possesses the authority to seek injunctions against employers and unions who violate the Taft-Hartley Act by committing unfair labor practices.

But the law discriminates between employers and labor unions. When an employer commits an unfair labor practice, it is up to the NLRB to decide whether or not it gets an injunction. It may get it, says the law. It does not have to get it, says the law. The matter is discriminatory with the Board.

But when labor unions commit certain unfair labor practices, the Act says that the Board must get an injunction. The Board has no discretion in the matter. Even when the Board thinks an injunction is a mistake, it must get it against unions anyway.

LAST MONTH an election was to be held among several thousand employees of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. The election was to determine whether or not those employees wanted to be represented by the Communication Workers of America.

It is a violation of the Taft-Hartley Act for an employer to interfere with the free choice of his workers in selecting their union. Just prior to

## Soldier-Saint

Soon to radiate from silver screen to audiences all over America will be the authentic holiness of St. Joan of Arc. Historical adviser to the director, Father Doncoeur tells, in this article reprinted from "The Sign," of the making of this great film.

were to burn Joan and proclaim her to be a heretic, an apostate and a witch.

WAS THERE here a crime committed in the name of the Catholic Church, and should not Joan be regarded as a martyr to the spiritual tyranny of priests?

The knowledge I had gained from intensive study over a period of twenty years of the history of the trial of Joan permitted me to clarify this very complex matter rendered more obscure by more or less imaginative writers and historians.

The truth is that the court which condemned Joan, though made up of priests and presided over by the Inquisitor and Bishop Cauchon, was a court entirely dependent on the political authorities.

It was the English Bedford announced at several times, who wanted to disgrace Joan by even visiting her of adultery in order to discredit her King, Charles VII. It was the English who succeeded with a payment of gold in getting hold of Joan, a prisoner of the Burgundians. It was the English who gave the order to Bishop Cauchon, a member of the Privy Council of Henry VI, King of England, to prepare a trial which would defame Joan in the eyes of all Christendom.

Bedford and Warwick did not hesitate to employ intimidation, threats, and gold to force obedience to their wishes on the faithless judges. It was the English who directed the trial by paying its expenses after it was finished, they took care that the sentence was duly broadcast throughout Europe.

JUDGES WHOSE consciences revolted, or who were slow in falling in line, were threatened with prison or death. Those who showed themselves somewhat pliable were further enticed by promises of honors. Thus Bishop Cauchon, thrown out in disgrace by the French people of Beauvais, fully expected the honor of being made Archbishop of Rouen a favor requested by the King of England for him from the Pope. Quite properly it was denied.

Contrary to the laws of the Church in such matters, Joan, in spite of her repeated protests, was held in an English political prison and subjected to the most offensive insults by her English guards. When she realized that her judges were her mortal enemies, she requested that the bishops and theologians of Poi-

## Doctors Report French Woman Cured at Shrine

Paris — (NC) — The Medical Verification Bureau of Lourdes has made public the miraculous cure of Miss Marie-Therese Canin, aged 48 years and a native of Marseille.

Suffering since 1936 from a grave tubercular infection, Miss Canin was taken to Lourdes on October 7, 1941, with the national pilgrimage of the Rosary. Two days later she was able to get up and walk without any difficulty to the Joan of Arc hospice where she lodged. She showed all signs of a definite improvement in her state of health and the doctors asked her to return a year later.

When she came back to Lourdes this year, she was examined on October 6 by the Medical Bureau and 38 doctors who attested to her complete cure.

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